

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3-8 are pending. By this Preliminary Amendment, Claims 1 and 5 are amended. Support for the amendments to Claim 1 can be found at least in Figure 3 of the application as originally filed. Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter is presented herein.

Withdrawal of Rejection of Claims under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

Applicants appreciate the indication by the Examiner that the arguments presented by the Applicants in the Response filed on May 24, 2010 were deemed persuasive and that the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Sueyoshi et al. (Sueyoshi '834) asserted in the Office Action dated February 26, 2010 has been withdrawn.

Claim Rejection -- 35 U.S.C. §103

The final Office Action dated August 5, 2010 rejects Claims 1 and 3-6 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,075,294 to Van den Boom et al. (Van den Boom) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,304,967 to Hayashi, U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 20030107473 to Pang et al. (Pang) and US Patent No. 6,740,834 to Sueyoshi et al. (Sueyoshi); and rejects Claims 7 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Van den Boom in view of Hayashi and Sueyoshi as applied to Claims 4 and 5, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,769,154 to Klein et al. (Klein) .

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections for at least the following reason(s).

Independent Claim 1 recites a vehicle door outer handle system including, among other features, a covering portion made of synthetic resin and a holder which

envelop a ground plate and a circuit board. Applicants note the plain and ordinary meaning of the term “envelop” is to enclose or encase entirely with or as if with a covering. Referring to Figure 3 of the application, Applicants note the covering portion and holder are clearly illustrated as enveloping the ground plate and circuit board.

As illustrated in Figure 8 and discussed in the application, the covering portion is formed by die-molding (see page 9, line 19 to page 10, line 10). As such, the circuit board on which the electrodes are patterned is easily assembled within the operating handle and the water resistance of the circuit board and electrodes is improved (see page 10, lines 18-24).

Furthermore, because the covering portion is die-molded to envelop the circuit board, it is possible to position and support the circuit board with the holder, thereby making it easier to die-mold the covering portion (see page 11, lines 10-14).

Moreover, because the ground plate covers the electrodes patterned on the circuit board and is itself enveloped by the covering portion and holder, the ground plate is easily incorporated in the sensor unit, which enhances the ease of assembly of the ground plate to the handle main body (see page 11, lines 15-19).

Applicants respectfully submit that Van den Boom, Hayashi, Pang, Sueyoshi and Klein each fail to teach or suggest a covering portion and a holder which envelop a ground plate and a circuit board, as is recited by Claim 1.

For example, Applicants note the Office Action admits Van den Boom fails to disclose a ground plate and electrodes being enveloped by a covering portion and a holder.

Hayashi is cited merely for teaching that it is known to provide a circuit board with electrodes patterned on the circuit board. However, Applicants note Hayashi fails to teach or suggest a covering portion made of a synthetic resin and a holder which envelop a ground plate and a circuit board, as is recited by Claim 1. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that Hayashi fails to cure or otherwise address the deficiency of Van den Boom.

Pang is cited for teaching that it is known to provide electrodes patterned on a circuit board that is made of a single plate. However, Applicants note Pang, like Hayashi, fails to teach or suggest a covering portion and a holder which envelop a ground plate and a circuit board, as is recited by Claim 1. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that Pang also fails to cure or otherwise address the deficiency of Van den Boom.

As for Sueyoshi, Applicants note the Office Action asserts Sueyoshi teaches it is well known in the art to use potting material to cover “certain” electronic elements, and that it would have been obvious to provide the “plate” and electrodes described in Van den Boom, encapsulated in a resin material, as taught by Sueyoshi, in order to provide protection to the members.

Applicants respectfully submit that Van den Boom does not teach or suggest the ground plate recited by Claim 1.

Moreover, Applicants note that the “certain” electronic elements which Sueyoshi encapsulates in the resin or potting material 110 are the base plate 109 and electrodes 104 attached to the base plate 109. However, Sueyoshi fails to teach or suggest

enveloping the **ground plate 72** with the resin or potting material 110 and a holder as is recited by Claim 1.

Sueyoshi expressly states that the opening 142 is provided in the ground plate 72 to fill the recess 101 with the resin or potting material 110, but is totally silent as to filling the recess 101 with resin or potting material 110 such that the electrodes 104, base plate 109 **and the ground plate 72** are enveloped by the resin or potting material 110.

Applicants further submit that one of ordinary skill in the art would not consider it obvious to fill the recess 101 of the handle main body 70 such that the ground plate 72 is enveloped by the resin or potting material 110 and a holder because doing so would make it extremely difficult, if not impossible, to attach the cover 71 to the handle main body 70 during assembly since the projection 146 of the cover 71 must align with and be inserted into the groove 145 of the handle main body 70 to secure the wires 147 and 148 in the groove 145. That is, if the resin or potting material 110 enveloped the ground plate 72 wherein the resin or potting material 110 is also located between the ground plate 72 and the inner surface of the cover 71, thereby “enveloping” the ground plate 72, Applicants respectfully submit it would prevent difficulties to the manufacturer to have the projection 146 of the cover 71 properly fit within the groove 145 of the handle main body 70 as is necessary to secure the wires 147, 148 therein.

Klein is cited for teaching it is known to provide a holder inside a handle main body. However, Applicants note Klein, like Pang, Hayashi, and Sueyoshi, fails to teach or suggest a covering portion made of a synthetic resin and the holder which envelop a ground plate and a circuit board as is recited by Claim 1. Therefore, Applicants

respectfully submit that Klein also fails to cure or otherwise address the deficiency of Van den Boom.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Van den Boom, Pang, Hayashi, Sueyoshi and Klein, alone or in any combination thereof, fail to teach or suggest the invention recited by Claim 1. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 1 is not rendered obvious in view of the teachings of the cited references and should be deemed allowable.

Claims 3-8 depend from Claim 1. It is respectfully submitted that these dependent claims be deemed allowable for at least the same reasons Claim 1 is allowable, as well as for the additional subject matter recited therein.

Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections.

Conclusion

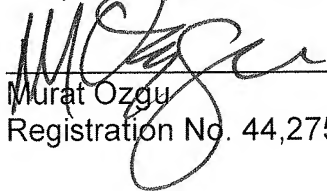
Prompt and favorable examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application, withdrawal of the outstanding rejections, allowance of Claims 1 and 3-8, and the prompt issuance of a Notice of Allowability.

Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

In the event this paper is not considered to be timely filed, the Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension, together with any additional fees that may be due with respect to this paper, may be charged to counsel's Deposit Account No. 01-2300, **referencing attorney docket number 107348.00543.**

Respectfully submitted,



Murat Ozgu

Registration No. 44,275

Customer No. 004372

ARENT FOX LLP

1050 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Suite 400

Washington, D.C. 20036-5339

Tel: (202) 857-6000

Fax: (202) 638-4810

MO/ayw